

Remarks

In the present application, claims 1, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, and 32 have been amended. Claims 1, 27, 28, 29, 31, and 32 have been amended to delete superfluous language in the claim. Claim 25 has been amended to correct various grammatical and antecedent basis errors and to clarify that the at least one central terminal comprises an announcement digital signal processor, the at least one central terminal initiates queries to the centralized announcement service node via an SS7 network, and the digitally compressed recorded announcement comprises one or more digital packet files. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5-7 are indicated as allowable and claims 25, 27-29, and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chawla (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,640) in view of Astegiano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,706,270, hereinafter “Astegiano”) and/or Erwin et al., (S.I.R. Reg. #H1,802, hereinafter “Erwin”). In addition, claim 25 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants’ Statement of the Substance of the Interview

A brief telephonic interview between the undersigned representative for the Applicants and the Examiner was held on January 3, 2006 to discuss the rejection of independent claim 25 in view of the cited references of record and allowed claim 1 which both recite queries to an announcement service node via an SS7 network, which was argued in Applicants’ previous response as being a novel feature over the cited references of record. The Examiner stated that features in claim 1 not specified in claim 25 in combination with the feature of the SS7 network placed claim 1 in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for allegedly containing various antecedent basis errors with respect the terms “the device,” “the user’s

device,” “said network,” “the network,” the user,” “users,” and “a user.” In response, claim 25 has been amended to delete all instances of the term “device,” clarified the term “network” as “the service provider’s network,” and provided sufficient antecedent basis for the terms reciting “user” or “users.” Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 25, 27-29, and 31-32 are rejected as being unpatentable over Chawla in view of Astegiano and/or Erwin. The rejection of these remaining claims is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 25 specifies a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network for a telephone service provider. The method includes coupling a request for a recorded announcement from at least one central terminal on the network of the telephone service provider to a centralized announcement service node, the centralized announcement service node coupled to the at least one central terminal, the at least one central terminal comprising an announcement digital signal processor, the recorded announcement including information for a user who places calls on the service provider’s network, wherein the at least one central terminal initiates queries to the centralized announcement service node via an SS7 network; retrieving, in response to the request for a recorded announcement, at least one recorded announcement file from a centralized storage mass coupled to the centralized announcement service node and the service provider’s network while a call from the user is connected to the announcement digital signal processor at the least one central terminal, wherein the centralized announcement service node and its coupled centralized storage mass are separated from the at least one central terminal, and wherein the centralized announcement service node provides access via subscription to an inventory of recorded announcement files on

a per-use basis; digitally compressing at least one recorded announcement in response to the coupled request; providing at least one digitally compressed recorded announcement to the at least one central terminal in response to the coupled request while the at least one central terminal is connected to the user; converting at least one digitally compressed recorded announcement to at least one voice file via the announcement digital signal processor, the digitally compressed recorded announcement comprising one or more digital packet files; identifying the user based on a communication from the at least one central terminal; retrieving at least one recorded announcement for the user based in part on the identification of the user; and playing at least one voice file from the announcement digital signal processor to the user, the user having placed the call to the service provider's network, to thereby audibly convey the information to the user during the call.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Chawla, Astegiano, nor Erwin alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest each of the features specified in amended independent claim 1. For example, none of the cited references discloses at least one central terminal which initiates queries to an announcement service node via an SS7 network. Chawla discusses an SS7 network, fails to disclose any communications to an announcement node (e.g., the regular non-intelligent switch announcement frame 60 in Fig. 2) via an SS7 network. Instead, Chawla discusses that communications to the switch announcement frame take place through non-AIN trunk circuits (so that pre-existing non-AIN switches may be utilized for announcements by AIN facilities without retrofitting the non-AIN switches with new equipment and software). See Figs. 2-3, col. 3, lines 9-47, col. 6, line 34-col. 7, line 16, and col. 9, lines 55-65. Since Chawla specifically discloses retrieving announcements from a non-AIN switch based component and SS7 is utilized in AIN communications, Chawla fails to disclose initiating queries to an

announcement service node via an SS7 network. Astegiano, which discloses sending digitally pre-recorded announcements to telephone subscribers and Erwin, which discloses a system for providing country-specific data for a telecommunications system, also fail to disclose the aforementioned feature.

Furthermore, the combination of Chawla, Astegiano, and Erwin also fails to teach, disclose, or suggest an announcement service node which provides access via subscription to an inventory of recorded announcement digital packet files on a per-use basis, as specified in amended independent claim 1. In the Office Action, it is alleged that this feature is disclosed by Chawla. However, as discussed above, Chawla merely discusses central office switches connected to non-AIN trunk circuits for providing announcements over a plurality of subscriber lines connected to customer telephone sets. There is no discussion however, of an inventory of recorded announcement digital packet files which may be accessed via a subscription on a per-use basis, as recited in amended claim 25. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Astegiano and Erwin (discussed above) also fail to teach, disclose, or suggest this feature.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 25 is allowable and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn. Claims 27-29 and 31-32 depend from amended independent claim 25 and thus specify at least the same features. Therefore, claims 25, 27-29, and 31-32 are also allowable and the rejection of these claims should also be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after

this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Date: January 30, 3007

Respectfully submitted,

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